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THE
EMIGRATION

FROM
EUROPE
DURING THE PRESENT CENTURY.

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**ITS CAUSES AND EFFECTS.**  
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TRANSLATED FROM NORWEGIAN STATISTICS AND REPORTS,
AND FROM EXTRACTS OF "HISTOIRE DE L'ÉMIGRATION EURO-
PÉENNE, ASIATIQUE ET AFRICAINE, AU XIX SIÈCLE,"

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THE EMIGRATION FROM EUROPE

DURING THE PRESENT CENTURY.

The largest proportion of emigration has been from Great Britain and Ireland ; nearly the half of all the emigrants from Europe having proceeded from the United Kingdom.

The stream of emigration has nevertheless run its course more or less steadily during the several years referred to, and it is interesting to observe the ebb and flood which takes place according to the natural consequences attendant upon the development of social and political existence.

The statistics of the principal countries do not extend very far back, but as regards Great Britain and Ireland, we have information from 1814 to the present time.

The number of emigrants from Great Britain and Ireland from 1814 to 1864 inclusive, has reached the enormous amount of 5,691,709 persons ;—of these 3,450,531 left the United Kingdom for the United States ;—1,255,554 for British North America ;—867,802 to the colonies of Australia, and the remainder to the East Indies, New Zealand, and other places.

If this 50 years period is sub-divided, the proportion is placed thus :—

	In all.	Yearly average.
1815—1819	97,799	19,560
1820—1824	95,030	19,006
1825—1829	121,084	24,217
1830—1834	381,956	76,391
1835—1839	287,358	57,471
1840—1844	465,577	93,115
1845—1849	1,029,209	205,841
1850—1854	1,638,945	327,789
1855—1859	800,640	160,128
1860—1862	341,453	113,818
for 1863	223,758	
“ 1864	208,900	

5,691,709 or on an average

yearly 113,836.

This amount of course includes foreign emigrants who passed through England before 1842. Only after this year were they separated so as to shew the distinctive origins. By deducting about 430,000 persons from the above figure, it is believed that a true estimate is arrived at with regard to the real estimate of native emigration from Great Britain and Ireland.

A considerable increase in the emigration took place in 1830 when through the application of steam to the cotton manufactories a large number of hands were thrown out of work. The poverty among this class caused an access to emigration which rose to its height in 1832 when 103,100 people emigrated against 26,100 in 1828.

By the consequent extension of the cotton manufactories, it was attempted to retain the labouring class, but the stoppage of the emigration stream was only temporary, and it rose even in 1842 to 128,300.

The bettered circumstances of the lower classes, the Crimean war, and the crisis in America during the years 1857-58, may be adduced as causes for the decrease of emigration at a later period, succeeded afterwards by the sufferings in Lancashire which again gave an impetus to emigration.

Norway has afforded about as large a proportion of emigration as any continental country according to its population.

The first emigration from Norway in large numbers took place about 30 years ago, when about a couple of hundred persons emigrated. This caused some attention ; but a regular emigration did not however commence before 1836 ; and thus far back we can carry our statistical research.

In the whole period from 1836 to 1864 there have emigrated from Norway 73,355 people, namely :—

	In all.	Yearly average.
1836—1839	900	225
1840—1844	4,200	840
1845—1849	9,400	1,880
1850—1854	22,370	4,474
1855—1859	15,860	3,172
1860—1864	20,625	4,125

During the first seven years from 1836 the emigration was very small, say from about 100 to 700 people yearly, but in 1843 it rose suddenly to 1600, caused by the fact that emigration commenced from several new districts. During the following years it was kept between 1100 to 1600 yearly, until it rose to 4000 nearly 3 times as many as in the preceding years.

It was of course in Norway as everywhere else, that poverty and famine, caused by the bad potatoe and corn crops, caused people to leave their homes and

country ; but even after better times had returned the emigration continued to grow so much that during the five years 1850—1854 no less than 22,370 people emigrated and in the year 1853 even 6050.

Then emigration again decreased, with the exception of the year 1857, in which the number rose even higher than before to 6560, owing to the very bad crops. The crops in the year 1860 were again desperately bad and the hard times caused by this circumstance caused emigration again to increase in the years 1861 and 1862, 8850 and 5100 respectively. In the year 1863 the emigration fell to only 1100, consequently somewhat less than in 1845.

This decrease was of course owing to the war in the United States, which seems, however, soon to have lost its dreaded influence, as during the subsequent year, 1864, there emigrated 3700 souls.

The emigration for this year is not yet finished, and it is impossible to say with any kind of accuracy how many will leave Norway : from the present circumstances, however, the emigration is not likely to be larger than that of last year.

The largest portion of the Norwegian emigrants went formerly direct to the United States, but after 1849, and particularly after 1854 the majority came to Canada, which country on the whole has received 48,060 Norwegians. Of these only comparatively a very few have remained in Canada, and the majority have proceeded on to the Western States, there to find new homes. The largest proportion of Norwegians seem to have settled in Wisconsin and Illinois, but they have also spread through the other Northern States.

All ages are represented in the Emigration, even from newborn children, to old people at the brink of the grave. As an instance, from Drammen there emigrated a woman 86 years old. The proportion of male emigrants is larger than females. Of every 1000 emigrants there are 465 woman and 535 men. This difference is certainly large, but even smaller than most of the other countries which participate in emigration. The ages between 30 and 40 years give the largest number towards emigration, both of males and females. The number of children among 100 emigrants is larger than their proportion of 100 of Norways population. In comparison with other countries the Norwegian Emigration has the advantage that the proportion of males over females is less, and the number of children on the contrary, larger. This shows consequently that the emigration from Norway is more by families than from other places, and this has a great moral and economic meaning.

The largest emigration has taken place from those districts which contain the higher mountain ranges, where the means of livelihood are fewer and where failure of the crops is most frequent. From four of these districts, the Emigration from 1836 to 1864 amounted to above 100 for every 1000 of the average population.

It has been least from most southern and most northern districts, from none of which during the stated period, more than 10 of every 1000 have emigrated. This year there is some appearance of emigration from the most northern districts.

The mortality on the voyage has been greater on Norwegian vessels than on any others. The proportion has even been so large that while on an average only

5 died among every 1000 of other Emigrants, the norwegian mortality amounted to 21. It was particularly small children who died. Besides the overfilling of the ships, it seems also that the famine which existed in the mountain districts after 1860 has been instrumental in causing physical weakness of condition and consequent mortality during the years of 1861 and 1862.

This state of things was however brought under the notice of the authorities and steps were taken to insure the Emigrants against such risks, which arise from the overcrowding of passengers, insufficient provisions and bad ventilation of the vessels &c., &c.

The largest number of Emigrants come from the country districts and consist of the labourers and tenant Farming class consequently the poorest portion of the population of Norway. Not a few of the better class of Farmers are nevertheless represented, these lending money to the poor, who on the contrary undertake certain obligations for this assistance, after their arrival in America. It is hardly fair to say that it is the least enterprising and industrious portion of the population that emigrates; it seems on the contrary, however, to be the more determined and hard-working men, who, notwithstanding their poverty, succeed in obtaining the necessary means for crossing the Atlantic, who decide on emigrating. Those in whom the courage is broken and the will weakened have no power to take such a final decision as to leave the habitual conditions of Home for another and a strange country.

The capital which emigration has deprived Norway of, may be estimated at about $3\frac{1}{2}$ million of dollars

or about 35 to 40 dollars per emigrant. Of this, the largest proportion returns to the country, in the shape of passenger money. Even this money may be said to be lost to the country as those ships which are employed in carrying emigrants are thereby, for the time being, prevented from earning money otherwise.

The passage money to America has generally ranged from 15 to 22 dollars per Adult. The provisioning of an emigrant is reckoned at about 12 dollars. If to this are added the effects and the ready cash, it may well be estimated that the country has been deprived of a capital of about 5 millions. Perhaps this amount is a little too large, as sometimes, in former years, the emigrants used to send money to Norway to assist their relations to follow them.

The value of the labour power, which the emigration carries with it, is no doubt much larger. According to the present proportion of the ages and sex of the emigrants, the Americans consider that, for every person that immigrates, the country gains a labour-power estimated at 1600 dollars more than the subsistence of each emigrant will cost. This means, in other words, that the national wealth is increased by 1600 dollars for every emigrant, who sets foot on the United States territory.

According to this calculation Norway has already contributed the amount of over 117 millions dollars to the national wealth of the Union. How much Norway has lost in the same proportion cannot be stated, as our statisticians have not yet been able to calculate the value of human beings in money, in the ordinary form of merchandize.

One of the causes of emigration during the period 1836-1840 was the dissatisfaction and suspicion to-

wards the government officials. This dissatisfaction was no doubt caused by the conduct of public officers of bad character, who by unlawful fees and other means pressed heavily on the lower classes. The hate against them was so intense and deep rooted, that many emigrants found pleasure, even after their arrival in America, in writing vindictive letters to those officials at home by whom they thought themselves maltreated. The usual strain of the letters to their friends at home, was that in America they were not persecuted by grasping and overbearing officials, and therefore they advised their friends to escape from such a thieves' den, as they called Norway. Even if this state of things can not now be considered as a cause for emigration, at the present time, it has nevertheless not altogether disappeared in many places and still occasions great inconvenience.

The real acting cause of emigration during the present period seems in Norway to be economical pressure. If an emigrant is asked why he leaves the country, the answer is nearly always that he finds great difficulty in obtaining a livelihood at home, and that in America they are not so much exposed to failure of crops. Complaints are seldom heard about the pressure of high and unreasonable taxation and more seldom still of the conduct of the authorities. But the complaints are most frequent of want of work and small wages particularly during the winter, and these complaints are no doubt made with good reason, as there are parts of Norway where an ordinary labourer, during the winter, cannot earn more than 8 to 4 pence a day besides his board. It is often said by the better class of farmers that they would like to remain at home, but that it is on account of their children that they undertake the voyage, as they have

heard that it is comparatively easy in America to obtain an independent position, even for those who have but little means to commence with. In former years it may well have happened that young men left the country to evade military service, but this is not the case now, when the practice prevails to treat the soldier in a humane and kindly manner.

Religious intolerance seems to have given the first impulse to emigration. Among the emigrants during the years 1823-25, there were not a few quakers, who then had to suffer many persecutions, and afterwards a number of dissenters emigrated from the most northern district of Norway. It is natural that the longing of the mormon should be directed towards his Zion by the Salt Lake.

Dissatisfaction with the laws and the Government can hardly be said to constitute a cause for emigration; there exist as yet some old fashioned restraints on different branches of business and trade, but these cannot have caused any influence as the class who suffered from them have not followed in the rush of emigration.

The real cause for emigration is and remains to be locked for in the natural conditions of the country. The soil is in most places very miserable and the extent of fertile portions inconsiderable. The severity of the weather causes the farmer many heavy expenses, which are not needed in other more favored countries. The night frost destroys often the whole harvest in one single night. In the same proportion that the work is little remunerative and nature sparing with her gifts, the necessities of life are many and great. Many things which a Southern man need not care about, occupies the Norwegian's whole care and attention.

All these unfavorable circumstances are most apparent in the mountain districts and hence the larger emigration from those places. Failure of crops, famine and want of work are the causes which drive the norwegian emigrant from the hearth of his country. Family reasons may be the motive for many and the opinion that the emigrant from those districts, infected with leprosy need not fear the attack of this scourge in America, is another reason of emigration.

It has been said that, if the emigrant would work as hard and show the same diligence at home, as he is obliged to do in America to enable him to obtain an independent position there, he could have equally as happy an existence in Norway. This has now become a general expression. It can certainly not be denied that it contains some truth. But it must also on the other hand be remembered that he who suffers under material pressure and who fights against poverty and want, has often more difficulty in working himself up from this position under the old habits of his home, than when he turns away from his surroundings and moves to another place, where life's pulsation is more powerful and can again awaken his nearly extinguished hope of future happiness. The power of example also become developed in the same degree as he sees the possibility of attaining his goal, and laziness, negligence and perhaps also drunkenness retire in favor of perseverance, attention, order and courage.

It seems that at least a portion of the Norwegian emigrants have been favored by fortune in America. They often complain of want of moral help and assistance. They have several times asked for clergymen from the mother-country, but these requests have but seldom been complied with.

Notwithstanding the large emigration from Norway, its population has increased from year to year, and curiously enough, most in that period when emigration was largest. Even from those very districts, whence the largest emigration proceeded, the population has increased; only the increase has been slower. How far the emigration has had any influence on the number of those assisted by the Poor Law Commissioners or the number of criminals, would be very interesting to observe. It is probable that effects in this direction could be ascertained. The statistics from which such a report could be made up are however very vague and scanty.

On the whole it is supposed that Norway's gain by the emigration has been equally as large as its loss of money and labour-power, particularly through the increase of her mercantile marine, caused by the extended freight trade with Canada and the United States.

We have only very uncertain information about the emigration from Sweden. So much can be said with certainty however, that it has been considerably smaller than from Norway and about equal to that from Denmark.

In the period from 1851 to 1860 there emigrated to America 14,865 and to Africa and Australia 50, in all 14,915 souls, among which are 2154 married couples with their children. During the first seven years 2000 persons emigrated yearly, but, in the last three years it dwindled down to 330 in all. Even in the years 1861-64 emigration does not seem to have increased much, very likely caused by the political affairs in the United States. The Emigration from Sweden to Norway and Denmark has not been inconsiderable.

Emigration does not seem to have caused any attention in Denmark before 1838, when a scheme was projected by a Joiner and a distiller, to carry it to Matamoros in Mexico. The number was in all 60 persons, consisting of 7 families and 16 single persons, particularly tradesmen and farmers, belonging to the Danish peninsula Jutland. The ship went ashore in the Bay of Biscay and the passengers, who had no means were all sent back to Denmark by the Government, with the exception of a few who were able by other vessels to continue their journey.

Even during the period when emigration was largest from other countries, namely from 1848 to 1854, the number of emigrants from Denmark was not large. The reason may be found in the circumstance that pauperism, which is the principal cause of emigration in other countries, is hardly known there.

The material prosperity, which Denmark has enjoyed during the last 20 years has given sufficient occupation not only to the native population but also to a number of persons from neighbouring countries enticed thither partly by high wages and partly by the good investment of capital in farming.

Next after Great Britain and Ireland, comes Germany as having furnished the largest proportion of Emigration from Europe, but the information about the real numbers are very scanty until the year 1845.

The Great European wars during the latter part of the last and the commencement of this century stopped emigration, which however after the conclusion of peace again commenced to increase. Various causes such as failure of crops, political agitations, the victory of the reactionary party, the discoveries of gold in

America and Australia as well as the Crimean war, are to be considered the proximate causes of the immense emigration during the period 1851-54. In six years no less than 907,100 people emigrated, and in 1854 not less than 251,938. If the single years are formed into periods of five years, then the comparison between the German and British Emigration will at once be remarked. An increase to maximum is shown in the period 1650-54 and then a considerable decrease, followed apparently by a renewed increase during the present time. Emigration has even been more regular, in some instances, as no break is shown during the period 1835-39 as in the British and Irish Emigration.

	In all.	Yearly average.
1820—1824	12,000	2,400
1825—1829	37,600	7,520
1830—1834	98,300	19,660
1835—1839	122,800	24,560
1840—1844	136,701	27,340
1845—1849	452,943	90,589
1850—1854	779,844	155,969
1855—1859	394,613	78,923
1860—1861	85,096	42,548

In all 2,119,897

In some of the German states the Militia Law causes an immense pressure by the long time of service and the large armies kept up. This induces the most valuable and strongest portion of the population to evade their duties by emigration. In other states the citizens are driven away by intolerance in religion, such as the old Lutherans in Prussia and the Jews in different states.

To fill the measure, some governments have endeavored to put obstacles in the way of emigration. These have of course not resulted in anything else, than that emigration now goes on clandestinely. When the lists of emigration from different states are scanned it is easy to perceive how the different social and political circumstances assist in its increase. Those who, for instance, know the state of affairs in Mecklenburg may well imagine how the emigration is so large from that state. Next come Hussia, Baden, Wurtemberg and Bavaria.

The main stream of the German emigration goes to the United States, where 1,546,500 Germans went in the years 1820-1860. During later years a favorable impression has been formed with regard to Mexico, La Plata States, Chili and Australia. The endeavors however to lead emigration into Hungaria, Gallizia and the southern Provinces of Russia, have been nearly without results. The reasons are of course plain.

The Germans seem particularly to be more successful in strange countries than at home ; the proof is in the rapid and flourishing improvement of those countries where they have principally settled, namely Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and South-Australia. Like the Irish they have sent home considerable amounts of money, partly to improve the position of their relations, partly to enable them to follow them.

Most of the German authors, who have written on the subject of emigration, agree that the injurious consequences weigh more than the good ones for those that remain and for the condition of the country generally and that there is a considerable difference be-

tween Germany without colonies and Great Britain with her numerous possessions in all parts of the globe.

It cannot be denied that such a difference exists and that it would be better for Germany if the people and capital, lost to her by emigration had remained in the country, neither can it be denied that it is the better and most enterprising portion of the population that emigrates.

The population has increased notwithstanding the large emigration, and the condition of the Country has improved considerably, owing partly to increased wages. The loss of capital complained of is not so large as it would appear. The emigrants have sent home large sums and the emigration has caused mercantile connections and transactions, which without it never would have been called into existence.

The transactions between the Hanseatic free-towns and the United States, which in the year 1840-1841 were estimated at only 2,450,000 dollars, reached in 1856-1857 a value of 15,360,000 dollars. In a report from the minister of the interior in Baden the useful consequences of emigration are acknowledged. The prosperous condition of the remaining labouring classes is particularly noted, as the labour power has been more equally regulated with the demand for labour, and the expense of supporting the poor have been lessened and lastly a considerable decrease of crime against the right of property has become apparent.

Switzerland contributes proportionably to emigration, but it is difficult to give the exact numbers. By the census in 1850 there were 72,500 individuals

absent, of which the half were supposed not to be returning. In the following years 24,000 people emigrated mostly to the United States, where 37,700 Swiss settled during the years 1820-1860. A smaller number settled in Brazils and the La Plata States. From French Switzerland a few went to Algiers.

French authors state, that few Frenchmen emigrate to other parts of the world, owing to their strong national proclivities. It is certainly the case that the emigration has not been in proportion to the population; but nevertheless according to Statistics from America we find that from 1820 to 1860 the french emigration to the United States numbered 208,000. In Algiers there are at least 120,000 Colonists of french descent; these are however not considered as emigrants by the french, as Algiers is only a province of France.

Neither has emigration been large from Italy, from which country in all only 20,000 have settled in the United States; and as the emigration to other parts has likewise been inconsiderable, we must place Italy among those countries that have furnished least to the european emigration.

The same is also the case of Spain and Portugal. The United States have during the period 1820-1860 received about 16000 Spaniards and about 2600 Portuguese. From Spain there is also some emigration to their colonies, but the number cannot be stated. Somewhat more numerous has the emigration been from Portugal to South-America. According to a report from the Portuguese consul at Rio Jancero the number of immigrants from Portugal during the period 1853-1855 is estimated at about 25,000.

During the present century about 100,000 people emigrated from Belgium, four fifths of the number during the period 1851-1860. Belgium has the largest population, according to its size, of any country in Europe; but through its high state of cultivation and industry it has been enabled to sustain a population of 8000 souls per square Norwegian mile (*).

The failure of crops &c. during the years 1846 and 1847 caused want and misery also here, so that the expenses for maintaining the poor rose in a most alarming manner. Emigration was consequently also in this instance advised as the only means of relief and it was unsuccessfully attempted in the shape of colonisation. The Belgian emigrant mostly goes to North America, but during later years it seems that the Brazils and Buenos-Ayres have attracted attention as places for emigration. Although the population of Holland is proportionately large, emigration has nevertheless been comparatively small. From 1831 to 1857 the number has not surpassed 30,000, of which two thirds went to North America, and the greater portion of the balance to the old Dutch colonies at the Cape and Natal as well as to Orange.

The main stream of the European emigration has been directed to North America, and this circumstance has no doubt caused the rapidly flourishing condition of the United States, and the fact that they now appear as a power of first rank. A celebrated english statesman said some time ago that, perhaps not this, but the next generation, would witness Europe ruled by America. Even if such a thing never comes to pass it is certain that the constantly growing

(*) One Norwegian mile is equal to 7 English.

influence of the Americans is being regarded by Europeans with considerable attention and partly also with jealousy. The American Government is perfectly aware how much the increase of wealth and power of the Union is due to the immigration, and consequently comprehensive and liberal measures are taken by the authorities to encourage emigration from Europe.

The census of 1860 shows the population of the United States to have been :

27,003,314 free white inhabitants
487,996 free colored, or

together 27,491,310 free, and
3,953,770 slaves

in all 31,445,080 souls.

Ten years before the population of the Union was only 23,191,876; the increase has consequently been at the rate of 35½ per cent. This enormous increase is of course due to immigration. The population of Wisconsin rose from 1850 to 1860 from 305,391 to 775,881, Illinois numbered 1,711,951 souls in 1860, against only 851,470 in 1850. Michigan had an increase of 154 per cent. About the same was the case in Iowa and Minnesota. These figures are given merely to show the immense influence of european emigration on the increase of population in the States. The emigration is not yet finished for the present year and it will be interesting enough to see, after the present census, how far the war, just concluded has had any material influence in counterbalancing the increase of population caused by emigration.

Having thus shown the extent of emigration from the various countries, it might be well to endeavor to answer the question which naturally arises as regards the magnitude of the emigration likely to proceed from Europe hereafter. That in the future as in the past, large emigration must necessarily take place from Europe is undoubted; but its bulk will mainly depend upon the condition of the social circumstances in the different countries referred to; where these are not bettered, so long as free sources of livelihood, religious and political freedom are withheld from the people, so certain will emigration continue on a large scale, and it will increase when the higher state of education more readily shall show the restrictions in a more glaring light than hitherto. There will always, as now, be a difference in the magnitude of emigration during different periods from different countries. It will remain comparatively small during prosperous years and from well governed countries, and become largest after failure of harvest and panics in the industrial and commercial world.

According to statistics it appears that Europe has furnished the following number of immigrants to the United States.

Great Britain and Ireland	2,750,874
Germany	1,546,446
France	208,063
Switzerland	37,733
Norway and Sweden	36,129
Spain	16,218
Italy	11,202
Belgium	9,862
Denmark	5,540

Portugal	2,614
Sardinia	2,080
Poland	1,659
Russia	1,374
in all	4,629,744

This number is no doubt too small, as it is probable that many have come into the country without being registered as European emigrants. This is certainly the case with regard to Norway and Sweden, as the emigrants from these countries mostly enter the States via Canada, and are not counted in the above statement. It is nevertheless supposed that the whole emigration from Europe and other parts of the world amounts to somewhat more than five millions. The Chinese in California, and the negroes imported from Africa are included.

The classification of trades and callings is as follows (excluding females and children):

Laborers	872,317
Farmers	764,837
Mechanics	407,542
Traders	231,852
Physicians	7,109
Clergymen	4,326
Lawyers	2,676
Artists	2,490
Musicians	729
Printers	705
Actors	388

The whole Emigration from Europe during the present century is estimated at nearly 8 millions, namely:—

From Great Britain and Ireland	4,880,000
" Germany	2,120,000
" France	880,000
" Belgium and Holland	180,000
" Norway Sweden and Denmark	100,000
" Spain and Portugal	70,000
" Switzerland	55,000
" Italy	25,000
" Other parts of Europe	10,000
in all	7,670,000

Some of these figures may be too high, others again too low, as there is no doubt that a great number have emigrated clandestinely, and those who emigrated by other vessels than regular emigrant ships have not been counted.

In the original of this document the causes of the emigration from Ireland are more fully mentioned than in this translation. The circumstances are so well known here, that it is deemed unnecessary to enlarge on that topic.